

Titel: BREV TIL: Louis Hjelmslev FRA: Thomas Albert Sebeok (1946-07-29)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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July 29, 1946

Dr. Thomas A. Sebeok,  
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University of Michigan,  
Department of English Language and Literature,  
Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Sebeok,

Thank you so very much for the kind letter you have been good enough to send me. I know your name quite well (but I do not know how to pronounce it!) from *LANGUAGE*, which I receive regularly as a member (though there are still some war issues which have not yet reached me) and especially from *STUDIES IN LINGUISTICS*, which Dr. Trager was good enough to send me recently. I have not yet been able to go through all of it, but your works as well as those of Paul L. Garvin seem to me highly interesting. As a matter of fact I have been doing Finno-Ugric for years (I learned Finnish and Hungarian 25 years ago), although I have not yet published much about it; I am teaching it in the university, and no doubt I shall publish sooner or later my structural interpretations of some of those languages; I cannot tell when that will be; in the time left to me from other duties I must concentrate on the publication of my language theory first of all. I am very glad to know that you are working with so much energy in the Finno-Ugric field; there is very much to be done; the interesting thing about it is, to my opinion, that these languages, which at the first glance seem to be so regular and well fit for a structural analysis, are not at all so easy to explain and give rise to some puzzling and highly instructive problems.

It goes without saying that I shall be highly interested to see your monograph on Finnish and Hungarian Case Systems. I am sorry that I must tell you that the third part of my case book has not yet been published; it will take some time before it can come out. I should be very glad to see also your Finnish and Hungarian textbooks, especially for pedagogical purposes.

I shall certainly tell Saareste about your letter, when I see him again next week. He is sure to be interested, of course, but I wonder if he has got any spare copies. You may know that he is here as a refugee, and he has not succeeded in taking very much with him, apart from a good deal of his material for the Estonian lin-

guistic atlas.

Nobody here knows anything at all about Laziczius. I have written to him, but had no answer. He may be somewhere else; I have been told that a considerable number of Hungarian intellectuals left Hungary when the Russians came there; if he is among them, he is likely to be somewhere in the British or American zone of Germany, and he may be very difficult to trace. But this is only a conjecture of mine. I do hope he is still alive.

I am sorry that for the moment I have not got such material to send you; I am sending you the reprints I still have at my disposal, and which may be of any interest to you. I published in 1942 a book in Danish on the theory of language; I am preparing a French version, to be published this winter, so I think you should not waste time in deciphering the Danish text. The French edition will be published in the Travaux du Cercle linguistique de Copenhague.

*Y to Indiana  
(not by  
air mail)*

Since you want all the publications of our Linguistic Circle, I should suggest that you join the Circle as a member, which will be more profitable for you than subscribing to the various series separately. The fee is now 10 kroner per year, and you will receive for that the Bulletin and the Travaux, besides other informations from the Circle. For the Acta Linguistica you will have to pay 16 kroner extra per volume as a member of the Circle; non-members have to pay 20 kroner. As a member you can have older issues of Bulletin and Travaux with a reduction. - Please let me know if you agree with this arrangement, or if you prefer a separate subscription. The treasurer is away for holidays just now; but I shall take contact with him as soon as I know your decision. Or you can write to the treasurer yourself: just address to Cercle linguistique de Copenhague, 21 Ingemannsvej, Copenhagen V.

I am not sending you reprints of my articles in the Acta and in the publications of the Circle, since you will get them anyhow; I have only a few copies left. If you want some of these reprints, just let me know.

I am very pleased to get in touch with you, and I do hope to meet you some time. I should very much like to go to U.S.A. and take personal contact with you and other scholars over there; but it requires much time and much money. It would be very nice indeed if you could come to Europe next year.

Very sincerely yours,

*I shall be glad to have a manuscript from you for AL.*